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Teleconnections

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Webster-Calhoun
Cooperative Telephone Association



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Happy Holidays from the
Employees and Directors at
Webster-Calhoun Cooperative
Telephone Association



*Please Note: The office will be closed on
December 24th, 25th, and January 1st.*

Gowrie Youth Participates in ITA Convention



Thank you to Brooke Lautner, niece of WCCTA General Manager, Daryl Carlson, and a freshman at Prairie Valley High School, for singing the National Anthem at the Iowa Telecommunications Association's 113th Annual Convention and Trade Show in Des Moines. Brooke is pictured above with David Schmidt and Robert Daniel from Heart of Iowa Communications representing American Legion #225. They presented the colors during the convention opening ceremony.

Making A List And Checking It Twice

Are you getting everything done on your "To Do" list this month? Mark off "paying the phone bill" for good and sign up for **Direct Payment!** WCCTA will take care of that chore for you and save you valuable time and money!



Board Member

Nominating Committee

meeting for 2010 will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, January 8, 2010 at the Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association office. Contact Daryl Carlson, EVP/General Manager, at 352-3151 for more information.

Daryl Carlson Completes Year as ITA Chairman of the Board

During the Annual Meeting in November, Daryl Carlson, General Manager of Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association passed on the gavel of the Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA) Board of Directors. Carlson joined the ITA Board in 1994 and has been very involved in all aspects of the association including Chairman of the Board. This year he reached the term limit and could not seek re-election to the board.

"It is important to stay involved. There are still a lot of ways to be active in the association," says Carlson. "I still plan to participate on committees and be active within the industry."



Senator Harkin Applauds Rural Carriers At ITA Convention

As he addressed the ITA General Session, Senator Tom Harkin noted the positive impact of rural carriers on their communities. He also reaffirmed his support of universal service, and the importance of broadband deployment in rural areas to spur economic development. Senator Harkin also referred to a conversation he had with ITA Board Chair Daryl Carlson and ITA President Dave Duncan (pictured above) that rural LECs need more grants, not just more loan opportunities as part of the federal broadband stimulus programs.



Heading South for the Winter?

Members who head south for the winter may want to consider placing their Webster-Calhoun telephone service on "vacation rate." When on vacation rates, your telephone is placed into a discounted and suspended mode that assures you will receive the same telephone number when you return in the spring and does not incur any reconnect charges.

Vacations rates are available for a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 6 months during any 12 month period. – **Remember**, any long distance calling from this number will result in removal from the vacation rates.

When you're heading back to your home, give Webster-Calhoun a call and we will fully restore your services. For more information, please contact our office at 352-3151.

Drop in Landline Telephones Affects 9-1-1 Revenue

More and more Iowans have cut the cord and gone to wireless phones, which means less money from the E-9-1-1 surcharge for Iowa counties. Counties set the surcharge for land-line phones, while the state sets and collects the money from the cell phone surcharge.

Barbara Vos, the E-9-1-1 program coordinator for the state says they pay 65% of the money to the wireless carriers and telephone companies that are part of the networks that provide the service, and then they pay 25% of the funds to the local entities based on the number of calls the local public safety answering point has handled each quarter.

Vos claims cell phone usage in Iowa has jumped more than 20% in the past three years. Linn County is considering a surcharge to increase the E-9-1-1 fees on land-lines to make up for the loss. Hamilton County supervisor David Young is also chairman of the county E-9-1-1 board, and says the loss of land-line revenue has not become a problem yet.

He says they have been close to the same revenue for the last couple of years, but they know it will be declining as the land-line usage drops. Young says the E-9-1-1 boards will face an even bigger challenge as technology advances. Young says the next real threat is voice-over IP (Internet Protocol) equipment where someone can call in from their computer into 9-1-1 dispatch. He says that brings a whole other requirement for expensive equipment to handle those type of calls and he says Hamilton County is not ready for that yet. Counties can set a surcharge from 25 cents to one dollar per land-line for E-9-1-1 service.

*Information from
Iowa Telecommunications Association*